

University of California, Berkeley
Fall 2025
Global Maternal and Child Health Decal Syllabus
Day and Time: Wednesdays 6-7pm (start at Berkeley time)
Location: Dwinelle 235
Email: email any of the facilitators below

Facilitators:

- Moncerrat Hernández (moncerrat.hernandez@berkeley.edu)
- Malaya Cantor (mgfcantor2005@berkeley.edu)
- Michaela Reese Auman (michaelauman@berkeley.edu
- Osayuwamen Naomi Eguavoen (nequavoen@berkeley.edu)
- Kali Nishimine (kalinishimine@berkeley.edu)
- Dils Jignesh Bhagat (dils_bhagat@berkeley.edu)

Sponsoring Professor: Dilys Walker

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the various socioeconomic, cultural, and political factors that affect maternal and child health. This will be accomplished through active engagement in the form of lectures, reading, reflection posts, and presentations. We will also examine current efforts in education, public health, and policy to combat disparities in mother and child health. In addition, students will also interact with professionals in this field, all leading to the goal of gaining personal insight into this field. Students will have the opportunity to present on a specific topic of their choice in the realm of maternal and child health.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, you will have learned:

- Intersectional factors of maternal and baby health
- How to educate your community
- How to advocate for marginalized groups
- Discuss and examine various perspectives in Public Health.
- Become educated on various topics in Maternal Child Health
- Introduction to Public Health and awareness of future research and careers in the field

Pre-requisites: A passion for learning about the biological, economic, and social disparities in global maternal and child health.

Course Website: bCourses will have all our information including weekly assignments and readings.

Materials Needed: All readings, articles, and reflection posts will be on the Bcourses site. Readings and articles can be found under the Files tab, while reflection posts are located in the Assignments tab.

Methods of Instruction: Instruction will be given in the first 40 minutes of class, mainly by the course facilitators for the first few weeks. For specific topics such as global health and careers in Public Health, etc we will work to invite a guest lecturer. For the remainder of the 1 hour class students will discuss the previous week's readings and assignment with the course facilitators. All class instruction will be in person unless stated otherwise.

Technology Policy: Cell phones, laptops, ipads and other devices should not be in use during class time.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. If you know that you will not be present in class for a particular day, please let us know 24 hours in advance. You are allowed 3 excused absences.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on a p/np basis, based on fulfilling the following requirements for the grade. Students who complete the course with a 70% or higher will receive a passing grade.

- Assignments (25%)
 - Assignments will consist of reflection posts (3-4 sentences) on class discussions, assigned readings, and personal insights. Each assignment will be based on that week's content and is due the following week by 6:00 p.m., just before the next class begins at 6:10 p.m.
 - Readings should be completed before lecture and will be discussed at the beginning of class.
- Presentations (25%)
 - Every student will present a final presentation on a topic related to global maternal and child health of their choice in the last two weeks of the semester. More details will be provided in class.
- Attendance (40%)
 - Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed 3 excused absences, including Midterms. If you are unable to make it to class, please inform one of the facilitators 24 hours before the class (emails found above).
- Participation (10%)
 - Participation is mandatory. It will be accounted for through our google forms which asks students for the attendance word of the day. To foster active participation in class content while respecting individual comfort levels, we aim to cultivate an inclusive environment that encourages engagement without placing students in the spotlight for refraining from raising their hands to speak aloud.

How to contact facilitators:

- Virtual coffee chats (please schedule these through email with a facilitator)
- Email
- bCourses

SCHEDULE:

Fall 2025 Syllabus/Lesson Plan

<u>Week and Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Readings/Videos</u> (to be completed BEFORE class of the stated week)	<u>Assignments</u> (to be completed AFTER class of the stated week-opens at 7pm.)
Week 1 09/10	Introduction - Present on what has developed in mother and baby health in history and modern day - Introduce Pregnancy Pop-Up Village - Get student recommendations for career panelists	1) Trump administration eviscerates maternal and child health programs 2) Racial and Ethnic Differences in Out-of-Pocket Spending for Maternity Care	Reflection post: Why did you join this class? What do you want to get out of this class? What did you learn from the readings?
Week 2 09/17	Abortion Access - Study prevalence of Abortion and Pro Life and Pro Choice stigmas and arguments across different states. - Current laws nationally and globally regarding Abortion.	1) Abortion Bans Across the Country: Tracking Restrictions by State - The New York Times 2) Where State Abortion Laws Stand Without Roe	Reflection post: <i>Reflect on the readings. What did you learn from them? What surprised you?</i>
Week 3 09/24	Maternal and Child Health - Global Health - Examine health outcomes of mothers and children in third world countries. - Current research initiatives. Dilys Walker Presentation	1) Intrapartum care package case study 2) ‘This Zambian Activist...’	Reflection Post: Please write a paragraph (3-4 sentences) about something you learned and/or found interesting in the global health readings and/or Dr. Dilys Walker’s presentation? It can be specific or broad.
Week 4 10/01	PRONTO Intrapartum Simulation Training Dilys Walker Presentation	1) Saving Lives at Birth Guatemala video 2) PRONTO International	Reflection Post: Please give us feedback about this week’s class. Did you enjoy this hands-on simulation experience? What is something you

			learned from this experience? Would you recommend including this in future semesters?
Week 5 10/08	Environmental Impacts on MCH - Environmental impacts on pregnant mothers, children, and newborns - Explore ways to combat environmental issues	1) As Extreme Fires Multiply, California Scientists Zero In on How Smoke Affects Pregnancy and Children 2) How Climate Change Threatens Pregnant Women and Their Fetuses	Reflection post: What is one thing that surprised you from this week's readings and presentation?
Week 6 10/15	Infectious Diseases in Mothers and Neonates - Examine common diseases such as HIV/AIDs, and their demographic prevalence. - Current scientific initiatives to combat spread of infectious diseases between mother and child.	1) Johns Hopkins Neonatal Infections 2) KFF: Pregnancy and Vaccines	Reflection post: What is one thing that surprised you from this week's readings and presentation?
Week 7 10/22	Adverse Childhood Experiences - Follow-up from Health disparities, examine development of Adverse Childhood Experiences. - How these experiences affect long term health.	1)) VIDEO: Understanding what is Trauma (7min) What is trauma? The author of "The Body Keeps the Score" explains Bessel van der Kolk Big Think 2) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Reflection post: Mid Semester check-in! How are you doing? Anything we can do to improve the class or support you better? Please feel free to use this space to discuss anything you want.?
Week 8 10/29	Policies that impact maternal health Examine laws and policies that influence how mothers approach their pregnancies	1) President Biden's and Vice President Harris's Maternal Health Blueprint Delivers for Women, Mothers, and Families 2) Medicaid Postpartum	Submit a presentation topic idea for approval.

		Coverage Extension Tracker - KFF 3) Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status and Efforts to Address Them (optional)	
Week 9 11/05	Preterm Birth • Introduction to the socioeconomic factors contributing to preterm birth • Emphasis on the biology of preterm birth and why this is so harmful to the baby and mother	1) https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth	Reflection Post: What is something you learned about the intersection of biology and social circumstances?
Week 10 (zoom) 11/12	Careers in the Field • In medicine • In research • In public health • In law	Research about a career in Maternal, Newborn, and/or Child health that you're interested in. Come with questions for our panelists!	None! Focus on your presentations!
Week 11 11/19	Student Presentations + Class Wrap Up		All presentation slides must be submitted by November 19th at 6:00 PM, regardless of your assigned presentation date.
Week 12 11/26	November Break (No class)		
Week 13 12/03	Student Presentations + Class Wrap Up		